THE AMERICAN
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SOCIETY

WINTER NEWS LETTER ☆ NOVEMBER, 1957

Salute to Cap'n Bill

Dr. William Gould Vinal in his study shortly after retirement

With this issue we salute Dr. William Gould Vinal, known to many as Cap'n Bill, who served the ANSS as president 36 years ago. Cap'n Bill was elected to this office at the Toronto meeting on Dec. 29, 1921 which makes him the oldest living president. He had been active in the Society from about 1911.

Cap'n Bill had an intimate acquaintance with practically every one of the presidents of the ANSS and has been one of the finest supporters of the Society during most of its half century of service.

He started teaching in 1907 as an instructor at Marshall College though he had been an assistant in a botany lab at Harvard for several years previously. In 1911 he went to the Rhode Island College of Education.

During his many years of work with

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SALUTE TO CAP'N BILL

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students and organizations, he published widely. He published a Field Guide in Botany in 1910. An article on General Science in the Normal School appeared in the General Science Quarterly in 1917 while W. G. Whitman was editor. Nature Study in Rhode Island was reprinted from the Nature Study Review of September, 1916. A report on Teacher Training in Nature Study appeared in the first Yearbook of the ANSS in April, 1925. Cap'n Bill was camp editor of the Nature Study Review for 1921-1923. In the 1921 number of the Review there were eighteen articles on various phases of nature study. Anna Botsford Comstock published a short biography of Cap'n Bill in the 1922 edition.

In 1920 he was at the helm of the Federal Nature Guide Service established in Yosemite. In the same year he started the Nature Lore School at Camp Chequesset on Cape Cod. Among the other staff members were Anna Botsford Comstock, Dallas Lore Sharp, Edward Howe Forbush, Schuyler Matthews, and Anna Billings Gallup.

In addition to the foregoing activities more or less related directly to the ANSS, he was a prolific writer of many articles on the camping movement. He emphasized constantly that all camping should be developed on a natural history and conservation basis. This interest led him to establish the Nature Guide School at Western Reserve and later at the University of Massachusetts. In 1948 he was called upon by the Massachusetts Audubon Society to direct a workshop for teachers and youth leaders.

One of the finest of his more recent works was Nature Recreation published by the American Humane Society in 1954. A new book which is due off the press is "The Rise and Fall of Ye District School in Plymouth Plantation (1800-1900)." This book Cap'n Bill says was the labor of love which points the way for solution of present problems and outlines procedures to save some of the good things of the district school, i.e. country living and nature education.

Though Dr. Vinal is "retired" he is tirelessly plowing new ground. His current effort centers on a biological survey of the proposed Cape Cod National Recreation Area for the National Park Service. Since he retired from the University of Massachusetts, he has been so busy that he wrote not long ago, "Don't retire — while you are teaching you can find time to do something for yourself."

Attend Council Meetings

All members are welcome to attend the Council meetings of the ANSS which will be held in the Blue Room of the Antlers Hotel. The meetings will be held on Dec. 26 at 8:00 p.m. and Dec. 29 at 4:00 p.m. Your interest will be appreciated by the officers and directors.

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Editor Needs Help

Your NEWSLETTER editor appeals at this time to the membership of the ANSS for help. The membership of this society is made up of people generally dedicated to the Nature Study Idea, and certainly all can say they lead busy lives. Among these are those who are quite busy telling others how busy they are. Also there are those who actively involve themselves in a variety of services in numerous organizations and causes and are too busy to say they are too busy to lend a helping hand to worthy causes. These latter are the people I appeal to.

Your NEWSLETTER has been largely a one man (and his wife) job. Many hours are spent preparing each issue by combing the literature and other sources for notes in "Off the Press" column. "Briefs" are gleaned largely from correspondence with individuals who are not too busy to write yet have been busy, doing things and, by example, stimulating others to a fuller life.

The above should establish what help I want. If you are doing something worthwhile you owe it to others in the ANSS to tell them about it. If what you are doing isn't worth telling, then we wonder if it is worth doing. Let me hear from you in such quantity that we will need to expand the NEWSLETTER to six or eight pages. — S.B.M.

ANSS Plans Banquet

The ANSS is planning for the largest and most significant banquet of its entire career of fifty years during the meetings at Indianapolis. Review the program published in the previous Newsletter to realize the caliber of the fine nature study leaders attending.

NOTICE

Membership in the American Nature Study Society includes a membership card, a quarterly NEWSLETTER and the following types of enrollment:

Group I	— $2.00	Membership only and NEWSLETTER
Group II	— $3.00	Cornell Rural School Leaflet — 4 issues annually
Group III	— $4.00	Canadian Nature Magazine — 5 issues
Group IV	— $5.50	Nature Magazine — 10 issues
Group V	— $5.50	Canadian Nature and Cornell Leaflet
Group VI	— $7.00	Nature Magazine and Cornell Leaflet
Group VII	— $8.00	Nature Magazine and Canadian Nature
Group VIII	— $8.50	Nature Magazine, Canadian Nature, Cornell Leaflet

Send application and payment to:

Dr. Howard E. Weaver, 202 Men's Old Gym, Urbana, Illinois

AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY
State Teachers College, Fitchburg, Mass.

Sec. 34.65 (e) P. L. & R.